



University of New Haven

Office of the President

Steven H. Kaplan, Ph.D.
President

Testimony for the
Appropriations Committee

Steven H. Kaplan, President
University of New Haven

February 10, 2016

On behalf of the University of New Haven, I am submitting testimony in opposition to HB 5044, AN ACT MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE EXPENDITURES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2017, which seeks to cut and consolidate the Governor's Scholarship Program.

We are grateful for the legislature's ongoing support of our sector through maintained funding of the Governor's Scholarship Program. We understand the state is facing very significant fiscal challenges and appreciate that every agency and nearly every program is facing cuts of at least 5.75 percent.

However, we ask that you DO NOT cut the Governor's Scholarship any further. This program supports some of our state's neediest students. Last year at UNH (FY15), 70 percent of the Governor's Scholarship recipients were Pell Grant eligible. For this academic year, that figure is 72 percent.

Reductions in funding for the Governor's Scholarship Program dramatically affects our ability to accommodate the financial needs of our students. Our institution's allocation already has been reduced 61 percent since 2013, when the Governor's Scholarship Program was created. From FY15 to FY16 alone, the University received a 50.69 percent cut. In FY13, we received \$2,051,567 in need-based aid through this program. For this year, FY16, we have received \$783,524. Accordingly, in FY13, 329 students received the Program grant. This year there are 265 recipients.

Again, we ask that you do not consolidate this grant program and do not give the Office of Higher Education (OHE) greater discretion to determine how much funding is allocated to this program. OHE has significant discretion already, and it has led to challenges for students and institutions.

We wish to continue serving as a partner with the state and provide low-income Connecticut students access and opportunity. Please do not adopt the Governor's recommendations to cut and consolidate this program.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven Kaplan".

Steve H. Kaplan
President